(b) if so, whether Government propose to transfer this subject under the State list; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Contamination of drinking water in Delhi

2634. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether gastroenteritis cases have been on the increase recently in Delhi due to contamination of drinking water by sewer lines of Municipal Corporation of Delhi, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 16th May, 1997;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure supply of uncontaminated water to residents of Delhi, especially during coming ... ny season;

(c) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has given any adverse report recently; and

(d) if so, what long-term strategy is being adopted to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has intimated that there is no increase in gastroenteritics cases in Delhi. Against 24,728 cases reported from 1.1.96 to 12.07.96, only 22,542 cases have been reported from 1.1.97 to 13.07.97.

(b) The Delhi Water Supply Sewage Disposal Undertaking intimated that 6 zonal laborat situated at Wazirabad, Bhagi Okhla, Hyderpur, Okhla tank Nazafgarh overhead tank, equiped with sophisticated ments check control the quali drinking water right from raw stage upto the consumers' These laboratories are collec about 250 to 300 water sam every day from their respec zonal areas including rural area check the water quality for its p bility and to ensure that no tamination of water takes place ing transmission of water thro municipal mains. Mobile laborat is also deployed to check the wa quality in rural areas. As a pre tionary measure service reser are cleaned periodically, pu complaints are attended promp and people advised not to use s low hand pump water for drink purpose All shallow hand pumps resettlement colonies have be painted in red colour with indica not fit for drinking. As soon co plaints of contamination is recei water samples are immedia checked and in case of any abno mality, water supply to the a disconnected and alternate supply made through water tankers. T cause of contamination is invest ted and rectified. Thereafter sup is restored after flushing the wa lines Through Press Notifications public at large is regularly advis to contact the above laboratories f free testing of water quality in c of any complaints.

(c) and (d) In a public interes litigation 1017/1997, the Cent Pollution Contro Board has submi ted its report about the pollute raw water quality in the Yamun river upstream of Wazirabad and the Western Yamuna Canal How ever, nothing adverse has been re ported about the drinking wate Supply & Sewerage Disposal Under taking